

ITEM # \_\_\_\_\_

PREPARED BY: \_\_\_\_\_

COMMISSIONER: RITZ

APPROVED BY: \_\_\_\_\_  
COUNTY ATTORNEY

**RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE SHELBY COUNTY MAYOR AND THE  
CHAIRMAN OF THE SHELBY COUNTY COMMISSION TO REQUEST  
FINANCIAL AND BUDGETARY ASSISTANCE FROM THE COUNTY  
BUSINESS COMMUNITY. Sponsored by Commissioner Mike Ritz.**

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WHEREAS, Shelby County has serious long term chronic financial problems;  
and

WHEREAS, Seventy percent of Shelby County's Operating Budget is allocated to  
employee compensation and benefits; and

WHEREAS, Required annual Debt Service for FY2009, FY2010, and FY2011  
exceeds the required and budgeted Debt Service for FY2008 and prior fiscal years; and

WHEREAS, The only available source of additional funds is the Real Estate  
Property Tax; and

WHEREAS, Shelby County property tax rate is the highest county property tax  
rate in the State of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, The combined city and county property tax rates in Memphis,  
Bartlett, Germantown, and Collierville are among the ten highest combined rates in  
Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, It appears that the FY2009 countywide real estate reappraisal to be  
accomplished by the County Assessor may actually produce total countywide residential  
property valuations and total countywide non-residential property valuations equal to or  
less than current valuations established in FY2005; and

WHEREAS, The combination of lower property valuations, excessive property  
tax rates; the increasing required Debt Service for the county's debt; and many other  
issues challenge the county's fiscal health for the next several years; and

WHEREAS, Many citizens, taxpayers, voters, and business leaders of Shelby  
County do not know or believe Shelby County Government has financial challenges; and

WHEREAS, Many businesses (1) have financial officers, accountants, and  
auditors who have the expertise and experience to review the financial reports and fiscal  
health of the county; (2) may be willing to allow or assign some of this expertise and

experience to such a review; and (3) have never been asked by the Shelby County Mayor and the Chairman of the Shelby County Board of Commissioners to review the county's financial report and to give recommendations to the Shelby County Mayor and Shelby County Board of Commissioners; and

WHEREAS, The county's annual budget has many separate accounts and reporting units, come of which consume more financial resources than others, and this request for financial and budgetary assistance should be targeted for the most efficient of the professional assistance; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED That the Shelby County Commissioners request the Shelby County Mayor and the Chairman of the Shelby County Commissioners to appoint and convene a Select Committee on Shelby County's Financial and Budgetary Affairs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Select Committee review the financial reports, budgeting process, and fiscal health of Shelby County and that the Select Committee make recommendations to the Shelby County Mayor and the Shelby County Board of Commissioners from time to time; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Select Committee may review any Shelby County financial account or issue they choose; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Shelby County Board of Commissioners would be specially interested in the following matters listed below in no particular order.

1. Construction and financing of City and County schools.
2. Maintenance of school systems real property.
3. Other Post Employment Retirement Benefits of Shelby County and the Memphis and Shelby County school systems.
4. Continuation of contract with the State of Tennessee regarding state prisoners at the Corrections Center.
5. Opportunities to merge offices within Shelby County Government or with other local governments.
6. Capital Improvements process, programs, financing and debt service management
7. County Retirement System and whether or not a Plan "D" with defined contributions be established.
8. The Five Year Strategic Plan Update FY2008 through FY2012.

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AC Wharton, County Mayor

Date: \_\_\_\_\_